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(71) Applicant (for GB only): MARSDEN, John, Christopher [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY INC. [US/US]; 49 Amherst Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HESSE, Robert, Henry [US/US]; 6 Sargent Road, Winchester, MA 01890 (US). SETTY, Sundara, Katugam, Srinivasasetty [US/US]; 402 Ringe Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140 (US). RAMGOPAL, Malathi [US/US]; 8 Garfield Lane East, Andover, MA 01810 (US). KUGABALUSOORIAR, Sanga [LK/US]; 26 Boulder Drive, Burlington, MA 01803 (US).

(74) Agents: MARSDEN, John, Christopher et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).

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(54) Title: STEROID COMPOUNDS WITH A C17-ALKYL SIDE CHAIN AND AN AROMATIC A-RING FOR USE IN THERAPY

(57) Abstract

Compounds of Formula (I) in which: R1 and R2, which may be the same or different, each represents a lower alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group;  $R^3$  represents a methyl group having  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -configuration;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an etherifying or esterifying group; R5 represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a lower alkoxy group; X represents a group OR4, wherein R4 is as defined above, or a group NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> wherein R<sup>6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic or araliphatic organic group, or an acyl group comprising an aliphatic, araliphatic or aryl organic group linked to the nitrogen atom by way of a carbonyl group; and R<sup>7</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group; Y represents a lower alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group optionally substituted by a hydroxyl, etherified hydroxyl or esterified hydroxyl group; and the dotted lines signify that double bonds may be present at the 16(17)-position and/or either at the 6(7)- and 8(9)-positions or at the 7(8)-position exhibit potent effects on modulation of cell growth and differentiation, while having low calcaemic activity.